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**EDU 535A**

2015-2016 School Technology Hardware/Software/Teacher Training Report

**The Sioux Falls School District has laid out a comprehensive plan for utilizing, purchasing, and training teachers in the use of technology. The district has set out to accomplish this by putting together a team of team of 13 district personal that meet 7 times a year. The team consists of Elementary principals, staff development personal, high school principals, and middle school principals, directors of various positions, teachers, and instructional coaches. This team meets to discuss where we are currently with technology and where we want to go for the future.**

**Currently in the Sioux Falls School district, every 3 years they develop a technology plan that lays out where they want to go in the next three years with technology in the district. The previous plan just expired on June 30 of 2015. The committee met and continues to meet to approve and evaluate software/hardware pilots and expansion of those pilots. They also look for ways to continually equip our schools, students, and teachers with technology that is “seamless, sustainable, and flexible, while effectively supporting 21st century instruction”. They also develop goals for implementation, professional development, communicate implementations, evaluate their effectiveness after being implemented, and budget out a roadmap for implementing the technology.**

**The technology hardware and software purchases are laid out over a three year term. During the 15/16 year of curriculum studies for world language/fine arts, and English Language arts, they will identify potential digital resources for those programs and then in year two pilot, evaluate, develop implementation logistics, and then develop a training plan for the content areas identified. This will also continue in the 16/17 and 17/18 school year for year one of the next curriculums due to be studied and updated.**

**They also developed a road map for the budget to implement the purchases of this technology and others throughout the district. In the first year (15/16 school year) they will evaluate replacement technology for 340 laptops and 550 desktop computers that are projected to have reached their end of life in the school district. They also look at the number of hardware that will be needed to replace and be purchased as students enter into high school. In the first year (15/16 school year) this number is set at 1,888 new Chromebooks for new 9th grade students and 100 more iPads. I have seen the new hardware purchase and the school district put more money into better hardware, purchasing Lenovo and HP Chromebooks, as well as larger, sturdier carrying cases for the Chromebooks for the new freshman to receive. In the following school year, 16/17, they plan to evaluate replacement technology for 780 laptops, and 2, 050 desktop computers, as well as purchase another set of 1,888 Chromebooks for the incoming 9th graders, 3, 640 Chromebooks for the 11-12 graders, and purchase another 100 iPads. In the final year of the technology plan, 17/18, the district plans to evaluate replacement technology for 610 laptops, 1,322 desktop computers, and purchase new Chromebooks for third through eighth graders at a total of 11, 836 Chromebooks, as well as another 1, 966 Chromebooks for the 9th graders and 900 iPads.**

**For staff development and training over the next three years they have laid out and set up programs. Throughout the school years and currently, they utilize what they call Red Apple Workshops. These trainings are sometimes free of charge, and sometimes cost money, but for being an employee they receive a discount on some workshops. Currently some offerings for training are as follows: rSchools Event calendar, web management, Edmodo, google aps and extensions, South Dakota assessment portal (basics and advanced), and also google Chromebooks and use accounts: troubleshooting and frequently asked questions. In the future they hope to offer google drawing, slides, and my maps, potentially in the second semester.**

**In the three year plan they also lay out the plan for training and educating staff. The first part of this is within each curriculum study group. Each time the curriculum updates, they will include in that update training and education on technology supports in that curriculum area. They also plan on communicating information regarding pilot project results, integration in the classroom and available resources to support staff, as well as opportunities to develop proficiency on implemented technologies once a semester, or more if needed.**

**More focused staff development will plan for professional development opportunities to transform classroom instruction through an annual needs assessment gathered by instructional coaches, building administrators, curriculum coordinators, and surveys to different employee groups. To continue staff education they will also set up a centralized place for accessing resources such as tutorial videos and documents, and workshops on district-supported technologies as well. They will also identify ways to provide ongoing building level tech integrations by using train the trainer techniques and using proficient staff members during building in-services and staff meetings as well.**

**Each building has a designated technology integration leader that offers training and support on various systems and technologies used in the district as well. In our building it is a current computer teacher that updates us and is knowledgeable about the districts software. Throughout the year our staff does some impromptu training on various aspects of software that maybe we need to brush up on or have found interests in as a staff and want to share with others. Last year the staff was “trained” in kahoot, because it was starting to be popular in the school. The district also does in-service days as well when they want to implement a new procedure for a certain technology piece. If technology is used in a certain subject, it is up to that department chair to train their staff with that (such as online textbooks) and how to access that as well.**

**The Sioux Falls district really works hard to make sure that all students have access to technology and that all staff are trained in how to use it and train students on appropriate use of it. Since implementing the one-to-one initiative they have offered various trainings on google drive and other components within it. Many teachers feel free to share different websites and tools that they use in the classroom that they come across and are successful in the setting in which they use it. I look forward to learning more about the technology piece and how it can be used an implemented as they continue to move forward with technology in Lincoln High School, as well as in the Sioux Falls School District as a whole.**